United Nations E/AC.51/2006/L.4/Add.6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
18 August 2006

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-sixth session
14 August-8 September 2006
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Coordination questions: report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (item 4 (a))

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2005/06

1. At its 4th meeting, on 15 August 2006, the Committee considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2005-2006 (E/2006/66).

2. The Director of the CEB secretariat introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegates welcomed the report as both important and useful and expressed satisfaction with its comprehensive nature, particularly the way in which it clearly highlighted the work and the progress achieved in inter-agency cooperation during 2005/06. Support was also voiced for CEB, its vital role of coordinating and enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system and the central role it plays, both from the perspective of sharing experiences among United Nations organizations and in terms of developing a coordinating strategy and policy aimed at enhancing the output of the organizations of the United Nations system.

4. The role of CEB in promoting a culture of cooperation among United Nations-system organizations and in providing cohesion to the system was supported. CEB was found to be uniquely placed to help the United Nations system move forward on

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some of the changes and reforms that the Member States have been discussing over the past years.

5. The achievements of CEB with regard to priority issues such as coherence at the country level, gender mainstreaming, knowledge management and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development were noted. The coordination and joint participation of United Nations-system organizations in the areas of safety and security of United Nations personnel, strengthening transparency and accountability and introducing information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the area of management and operational activities were also found to be important. With regard to the latter, it was observed that ICT plays a critical role in almost every operational and management aspect of the United Nations system and can be a powerful tool to reduce duplication and allow the organizations of the United Nations system to interact more easily.

6. Delegates noted the efforts of CEB to implement the decisions set out in the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the relevance of attention to the issues of hunger, employment and migration for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Support was also expressed for the activities developed by the Human Resources Network, in relation to mobility and hardship allowances and the harmonization of remuneration packages. The harmonization of the various United Nations HIV workplace initiatives into one common United Nations programme was also welcomed. The principle that collaboration in the area of management must be strengthened was also supported.

7. CEB interaction with the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence, particularly in the area of financial issues, given the continuing efforts of CEB towards providing full transparency in questions relating to extrabudgetary resources, was noted. The view was expressed that CEB should strive to further improve its working methods in this area.

8. CEB was requested to elaborate on developments in the area of sharing of experiences in future annual overview reports, specifically focusing on knowledge management and poverty, although members noted that some activities to share best practices appeared more ad hoc and passive, and that CEB should adopt a more active model in this regard. In respect of enhancing human resources management and inter-agency collaboration on ICT, delegates expressed the view that they would count on CEB to lead those initiatives. Finally, with regard to enhancing financial resources management, the opinion was expressed that CEB should strive to make further progress towards full transparency on extrabudgetary resources.

9. During the discussions, suggestions for consideration by CEB included the following:

(a) In the area of governance and accountability, members fully supported the initiative to create in the United Nations a more effective system of governance and suggested a new code of conduct for business purposes that included measures to strengthen the capacities of organizations to detect and prevent fraud and corruption;

(b) In the area of finance and budget, the Committee urged CEB and its relevant structures to expand coordination through further exchanges of experience and best practices;

(c) In the area of gender equality and empowerment of women, members noted with concern an apparent lack of progress and suggested that CEB could provide specific proposals in this regard in the future;

(d) In the area of knowledge management and knowledge-sharing, members were of the view that CEB should continue to have an important role to play in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Office of Internal Oversight Services report on the thematic evaluation of "knowledge management networks in the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Declaration" (E/AC.51/2006/2);

(e) Members pointed out that it is important that future CEB reports reflect the practical results of its reform and its influence on the different areas of inter-agency coordination, and that they provide more specific information on the problems encountered in its coordination efforts and how they were resolved.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee took note of the annual overview report of the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2005/06, subject to the observations set out below.**

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly welcome the inclusion of information on progress being achieved and problems being encountered by the relevant inter-agency mechanisms in the fight against hunger and poverty.**

12. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly request CEB to continue to monitor the effective collaboration of system-wide efforts against hunger and poverty.**

13. **The Committee recommended that the Assembly express regret that the international response to reducing undernutrition has generally been insufficient and that there was a decline of over 50 per cent in the share of agricultural official development assistance during the last decade, and that the Assembly request the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of CEB, to take the necessary actions to address this situation.**

14. **The Committee recommended that the Assembly request CEB to report in its annual reports on the progress being achieved regarding the main difficulties encountered by the organizations of the system in addressing the issue of malnutrition and hunger (see E/2006/66, para. 34).**

15. **The Committee highlighted the high priority that CEB continued to attach to ensuring the effectiveness and coordination of the United Nations system support for Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development and requested CEB to ensure that support for the New Partnership remained a priority for the United Nations system. It encouraged CEB member organizations to further align their priorities with those of the New Partnership and to scale up their efforts in support of it.**